

**THE PROMISED MAHDI**  
The Promised Mahdi Cultural Foundation

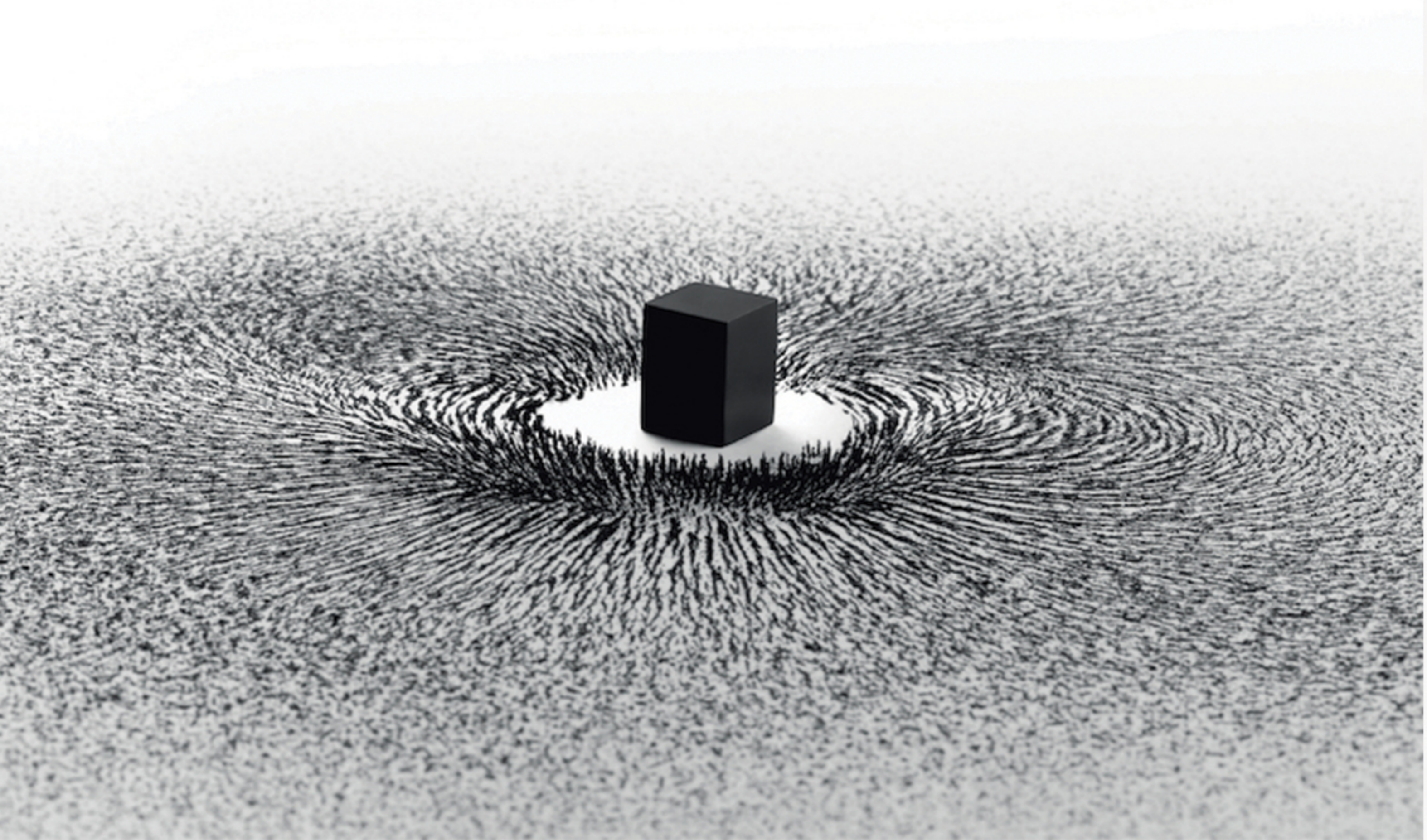
# The Interrelationship Between Imam al-Mahdi and the Holy Ka'bah



The doctrine of Mahdism constitutes a cornerstone of Twelver Shi'ī theology, encapsulating the eschatological belief in the advent of Imam al-Mahdi as the ultimate divine savior. In parallel, the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca i.e. Ḥajj not only signifies the pinnacle of devotional practice but also embodies profound political, spiritual, and communal symbolism. This paper investigates the intrinsic connection between the eschatological reappearance of Imam al-Mahdi, the rites of Ḥajj, and the Ka'bah as a sacred and strategic locus. Drawing on canonical Islamic sources, this paper explores the theological, ritualistic, and historical intersections of these three themes in Shī'ī thought.

### **1.The presence of Imam Mahdi beside Ka'bah**

Among the numerous reports regarding the presence of Imam Mahdi and his being seen beside the House of God, we will suffice with the report of the second special deputy of the Imam.



The second among the four special deputies of Imam Mahdi, Muhammad b. Uthmān b. Sa'īd al-'Amri was asked:

*“Have you seen the master of this affair, Imam Mahdi (may Allah hasten his noble re-appearance)?” He replied: “Yes, my last meeting with him was near the Sacred House of Allah (Holy Ka’bah) while he was praying: “O Allah! Fulfil for me whatever You have promised me.”*

(Kamāl al-Din wa Tamam al-Ni'mah, vol. 2, p. 440)

«عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ جَعْفَرِ الْحَمِيرِيِّ قَالَ: سَأَلْتُ مُحَمَّدَ بْنَ عُثْمَانَ الْعَمْرِيَّ، رَأَيْتَ صَاحِبَ هَذَا الْأَمْرِ قَالَ نَعَمْ وَآخِرُ عَهْدِي بِهِ عِنْدَ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ الْحَرَامِ، وَهُوَ يَقُولُ اللَّهُمَّ أَنْجِزْ لِي مَا وَعَدْتَنِي.»

It is found in another tradition quoted by the second special deputy:

*“I saw him (Imam Mahdi) clinging to the curtains of the Ka’bah at al-Mustajar, while he was saying: ‘O Allah, take vengeance on my enemies’”.*

(Biḥār al-Anwār, vol. 52, p. 30)

«عَنْ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عُثْمَانَ الْعَمْرِيَّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: رَأَيْتُهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ مُتَعَلِّقًا بِأَسْتَارِ الْكَعْبَةِ فِي الْمُسْتَجَارِ وَهُوَ يَقُولُ اللَّهُمَّ اانتَقِمْ مِنْ أَعْدَائِي.»



## 2. The Ka'bah as the Locus of his appearance

A number of Shi'i narrations affirm that Imam al-Mahdi will initiate his public reappearance in the precincts of the Ka'bah. Imam al-Ṣādiq is reported to have said:

«...فَيَقُومُ الْقَائِمُ بَيْنَ الرُّكْنِ وَالْمَقَامِ...»

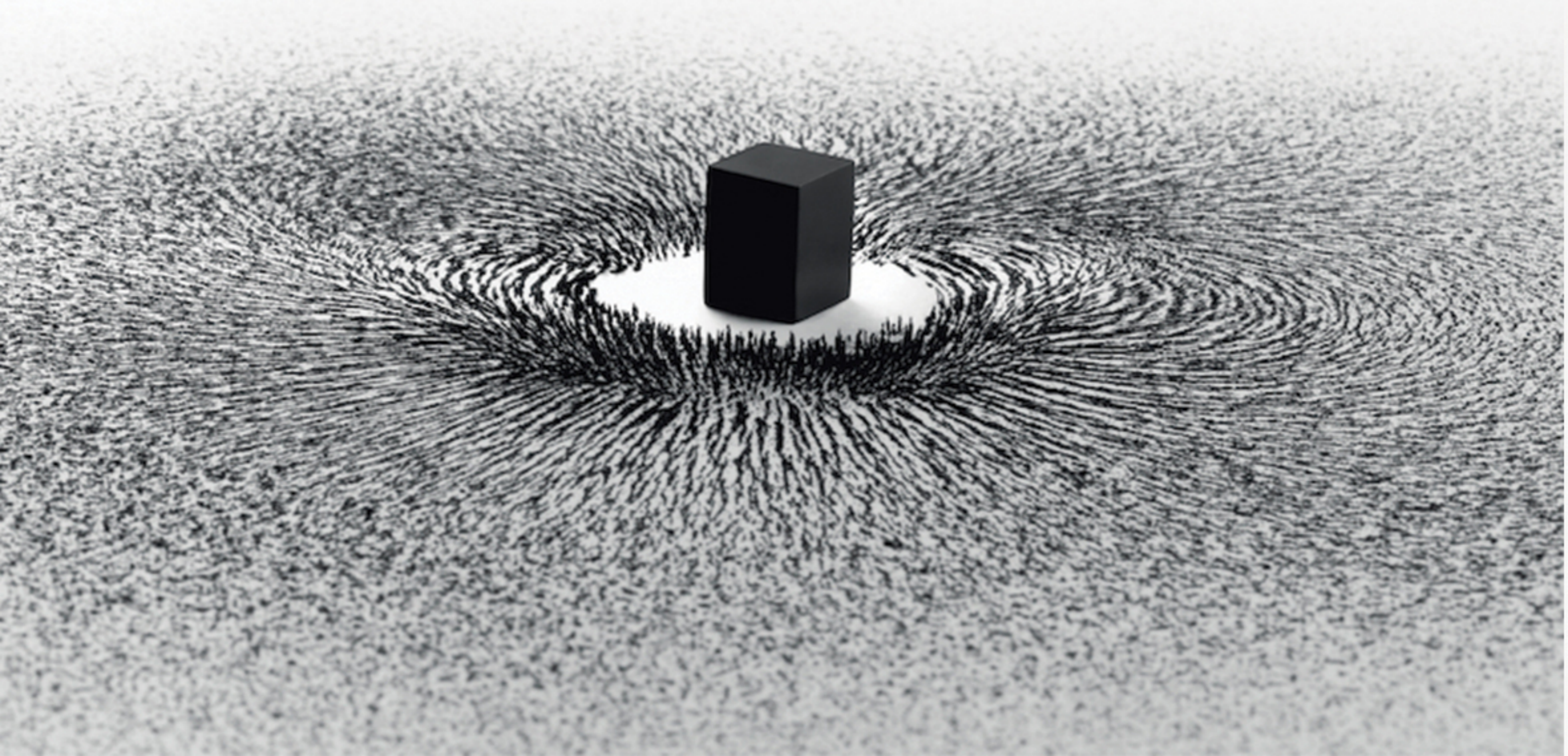
*“The Qa'im (al-Mahdi) shall rise between the Rukn and the Maqām (beside Holy Ka'bah).”* (Bihār al-Anwār, vol. 52, p. 223)

This tradition underscores the Ka'bah not only as the Qiblah of Islamic worship but also as the theological and geopolitical center from which Imam al-Mahdi's universal mission will unfold.

## 3. Proclamation of the Global Uprising from the Ka'bah

Another cluster of narrations emphasize that the Imam will make his initial declaration of divine authority while standing beside the Holy Ka'bah, stating:

«...وَسَيِّدُنَا الْقَائِمُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ مُسْنِدُ ظَهْرِهِ إِلَى الْكَعْبَةِ وَ يَقُولُ يَا مَعْشَرَ الْخَلَائِقِ الْآ...»



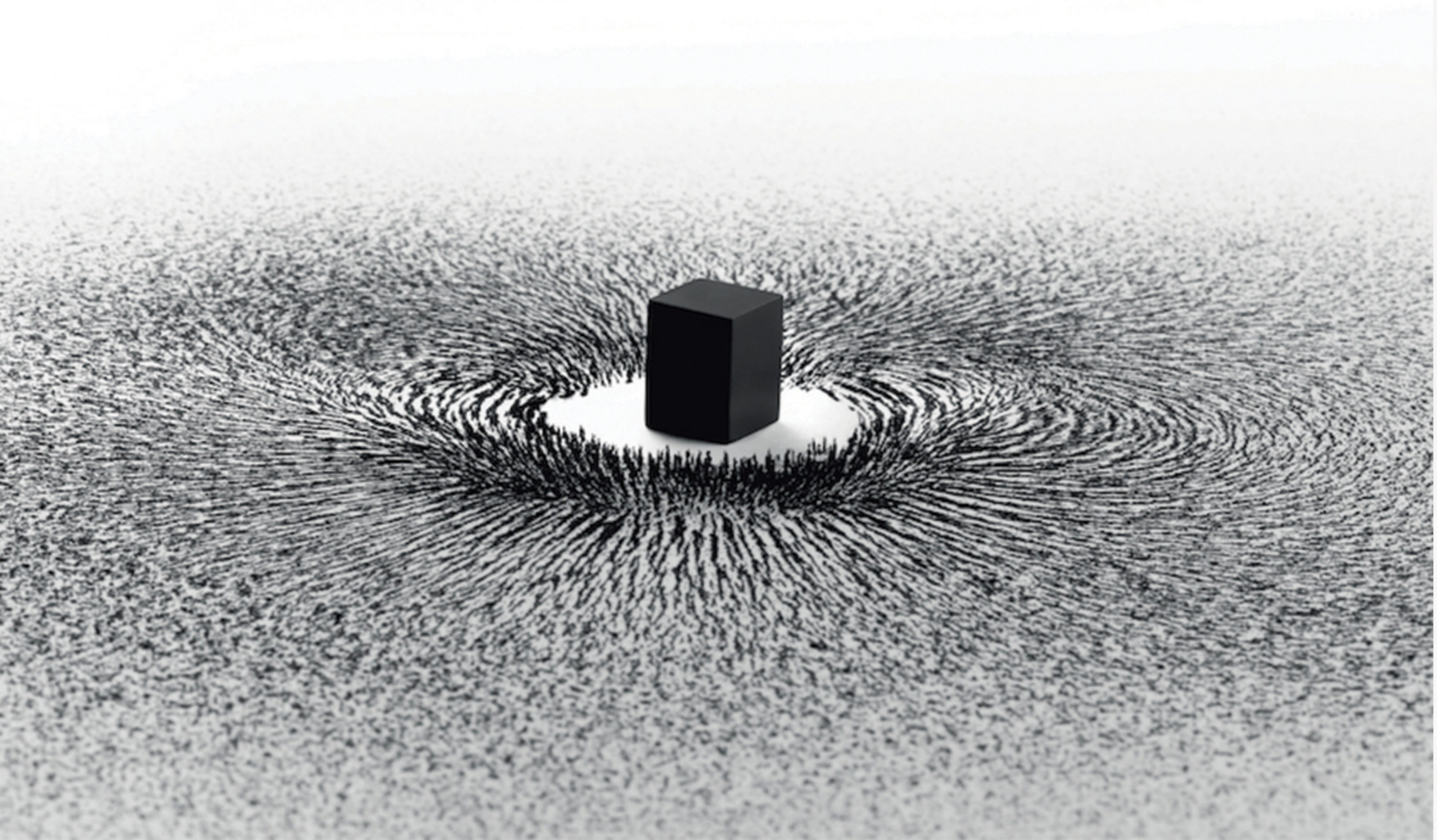
Imam al-Ṣādiq said: “...*And our master, the Qa'im, will stand with his back against the Ka'bah and proclaim, 'O people, know that...'*” (Biḥār al-Anwār, vol. 39, p. 173)

This announcement, replete with Qur'anic allusions and theological significance, will serve as the inaugural articulation of his divinely sanctioned global mission, emanating from the heart of Islamic monotheism.

The Ka'bah, as the epicenter of Tawḥīd (monotheism), offers an unmatched symbolic platform for this universal proclamation.

#### **4. Bay'ah of the Chosen Companions**

The allegiance (bay'ah) of the Imam's select followers forms a critical component of Mahdist eschatology. Traditions state that 313 loyal adherents from across the globe will gather in Mecca and pledge their allegiance to the Imam beside the Ka'bah. The timing and setting of this bay'ah—both sacred—symbolize the divine, unifying, and transhistorical dimensions of the Mahdist movement.



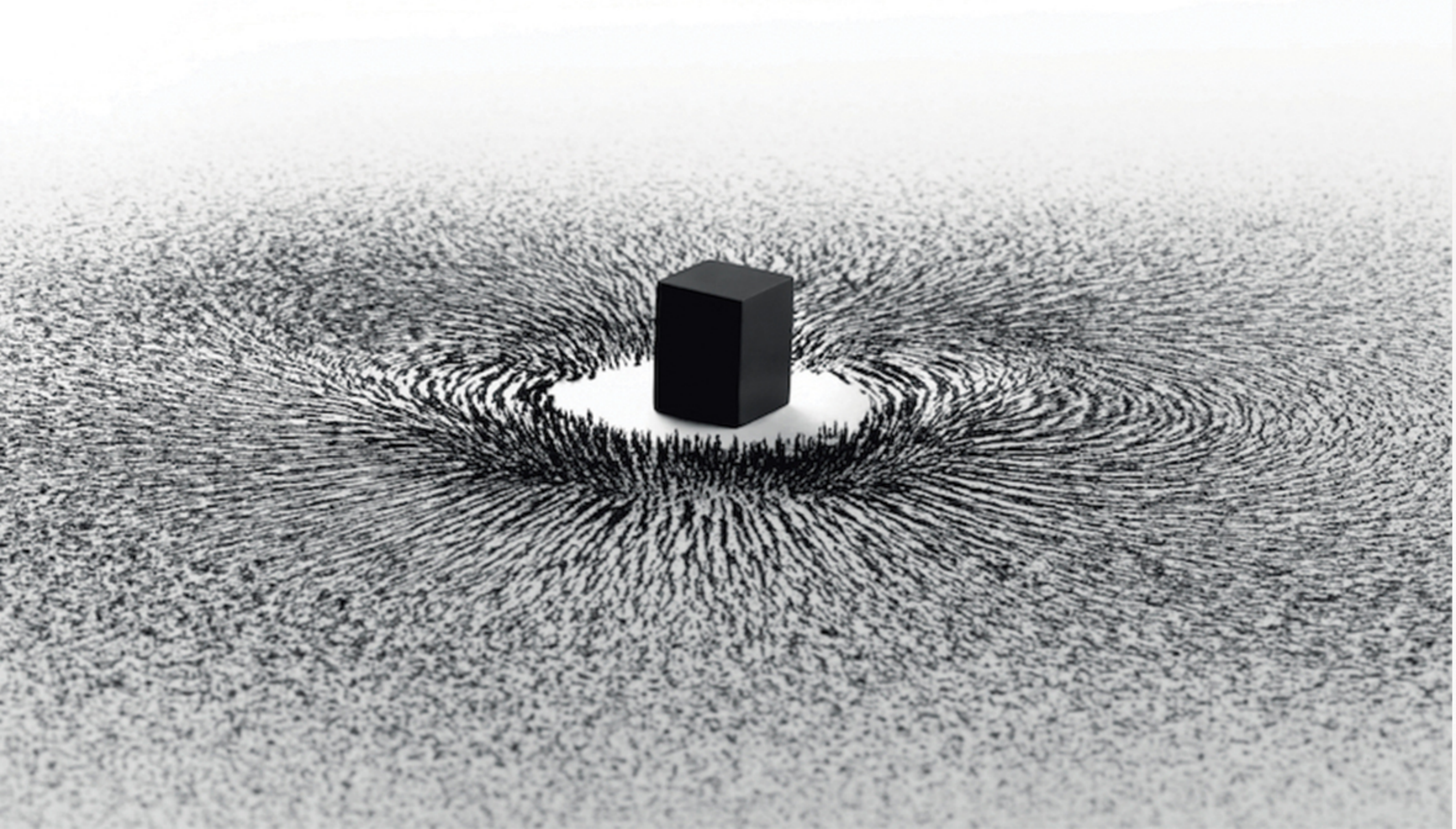
## 5. Purification of the Sacred Sanctuary and the Foundation of a Global Polity

Post-reappearance narrations assert that the Imam will purge the Ka'bah and its surrounding environs of tyranny and idolatry, establishing the foundations of a just global government from this sanctified site. The propagation of the banner of Tawhīd from the spiritual axis of Islam exemplifies the harmony between sacred geography and eschatological purpose.

## 6. Concealed Presence of the Imam During Hajj

Shi'ite Hadith sources affirm that the sacred plain of 'Arafāt, where pilgrims gather during the Hajj, is annually graced by the concealed presence of the awaited Imam, al-Mahdī (may Allah hasten his appearance). His presence is perceived as a divine blessing and a source of spiritual elevation, reinforcing the sanctity of this locus of prayer and repentance. It is transmitted from Imam al-Ṣādiq to have said:

«يَفْقِدُ النَّاسُ إِمَامَهُمْ فَيَشْهَدُ الْمَوْسِمَ فَيَرَاهُمْ وَلَا يَرَوْنَهُ»



*“People shall be bereft of their Imam, yet he will witness the ceremony (of Hajj) and observe the pilgrims without being recognized by them”.*

(Kamal al-Dīn wa Tamam al-Ni‘mah, vol. 2, p. 440)

A further narration affirms:

«وَاللّٰهُ اِنَّ صَاحِبَ هٰذَا الْاَمْرِ يَحْضُرُ الْمَوْسِمَ كُلَّ سَنَةٍ فَيَرٰى  
النَّاسَ وَيَعْرِفُهُمْ وَيَرَوْنَهُ وَلَا يَعْرِفُونَهُ.»

*“By Allah, the master of this affair attends the Hajj every year. He sees the people and knows them, but they see him and do not recognize him”.*

((Kamal al-Dīn, vol. 2, p. 440)

This concept of hidden presence accentuates not only the perpetual guardianship of the Imam but also reinforces the esoteric dimension of leadership within Shi‘a eschatology. The notion that Imam al-Mahdī (‘aj) supplicates for the believers at ‘Arafāt endows the supplicatory acts of the pilgrims with profound intercessory significance. Invoking divine mercy through the Imam’s sanctity becomes an act of both submission and hope.



## Conclusion

The Ka‘bah, while universally acknowledged as the Qibla and focal point of Muslim devotion, occupies a multifaceted eschatological role in Shi‘i doctrine. It is envisioned not only as the site of the Imam’s reappearance and global declaration but also as the setting for his first communal act of leadership—the Bay‘ah. Meanwhile, the pilgrimage to this site becomes a vehicle for spiritual awakening, recognition, and potential encounter. Thus, the convergence of Imam al-Mahdi, Ḥajj, and the Ka‘bah constitutes a deeply intertwined triad within Shi‘i theology—ritualistically, doctrinally, and geopolitically—and serves as a paradigm of divine order awaiting actualization.

**Source: Mahdism.net**

